

Message Text

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51

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20

ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 DRC-01 /200 W

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R 291045Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7315

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 2438

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: UPPER VOLTA AIRLIFTS AND AIRDROPS

REF: STATE 221810

DEPARTMENT PASS DEFENSE

1. WHILE THERE WAS NO U.S. AIRLIFT IN UPPER VOLTA, SEVERAL OTHER DONORS PROVIDED BOTH AIRLIFT FROM POSTS TO OUAGADOUGOU AND AIRDROP ON INACCESSIBLE POINTS IN NORTHERN UPPER VOLTA.

2. TOTAL 1151 TONS U.S. SORGHUM WAS AIRLIFTED ACCRA/OUAGADOUGOU BY BELGIAN C-130S (391 TONS) AND GERMAN TRANSALLS (760 TONS). IN ADDITION, GERMANS AIRLIFTED 135 TONS OF EEC MILK POWDER ABIDJAN/OUAGA. AIRLIFTS OF RED CROSS AND OTHER SUPPLIES FROM EUROPE TO OUAGADOUGOU, PARTLY VIA CHARTER, PROBABLY TOTALED 150 TONS OR SO.

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3. AIRDROP OF 639 TONS ON INACCESSIBLE NORTHERN LOCATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT BY BELGIAN C-130S, (297 TONS), FRENCH NORD ATLAS (325 TONS), AND GERMAN TRANSALLS (17 TONS). APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS WAS DROPPED FREE WITHOUT PARACHUTE.

4. COST OF AIRLIFTS AND AIRDROPS TO COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTING AIRPLANES IS UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY, BUT IT WAS VERY EXPENSIVE. COST OF AIRDROPS TO USG WAS DOLS 21,000 FOR SACKING OPERATING ORGANIZED BY EMBASSY AND CARRIED OUT BY PCVS AND VOLTAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS.

5. EXISTENCE OF GRAIN IN PIPELINE, COMBINED WITH TIMELY DELIVERY TO AFRICAN PORTS DURING 1974, SHOULD MINIMIZE NEED FOR AIRLIFT FROM PORTS. HOWEVER, SOME AIRDROP MAY AGAIN BE NEEDED. USAID SAHEL TASK FORCE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION 8,000 TONS STORAGE IN NORTHERN UPPER VOLTA, PLUS MINIMAL ROAD IMPROVEMENTS. COMPLETION OF THIS PROGRAM BEFORE JUNE 1974 RAINS WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE IF NOT ELIMINATE NEED FOR AIRDROPS, BUT FACT THAT FUNDS NOT YET ALLOCATED FOR THESE PROJECTS RAISES QUESTION WHETHER WORK WILL BE COMPLETED IN TIME.

6. UPON THEIR RETURN TO GERMANY IN AUGUST, SENIOR PILOTS OF GERMAN AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND WHO COLLABORATED WITH EMBASSY IN PIONEERING US SORGHUM FREE-DROP EFFORT CONVINCED MAJOR GENERAL GUTH, ATC COMMANDER, TO TEST THE METHODS DEVELOPED HERE FOR ADOPTION AS STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR GERMAN AIR FORCE TRANSALLS. WE UNDERSTAND TESTS RECENTLY COMPLETED AND GERMAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS APPROVED THE PROCEDURES WITH ONLY MINOR MODIFICATIONS. SYSTEM NOW INCLUDED IN TRAINING PROGRAMS OF GERMAN AIR FORCE TACTICAL WINGS, WITH RESULT THAT ANY TRANSALL CREWS SENT IN FUTURE TO SAHEL WILL BE FULLY QUALIFIED AND EQUIPPED FOR FREE DROP.EASUM

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